

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Status

Claims 1-27, 30-47, 49, 50 and 56-81 were previously presented. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 59 and 66 are amended, and claims 12-27 and 60 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 30-47, 49, 50, 56-59 and 61-81 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 30-47, 49, 50, 56-58 and 60-81 is noted and appreciated. In this regard, applicant notes that claim 59 is indicated in the Action as both allowed, and as rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Yamane et al. (US 6,140,931). Applicant assumes claim 59 to be rejected and, therefore, amends claim 59 to include the limitations of allowable claim 60, and cancels claim 60. In addition, claim 66 is amended at applicant's initiative to correct an obvious clerical error. "A motor bearing monitoring device" has been changed to "A memory device".

Claims 4, 7 and 16-19 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 7 are amended into independent form to include all limitations of base and intervening claims, and are therefore submitted to be in allowable form. Claims 16-19 are canceled, without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-14, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Yamane et al. Claims 12-14, 20 and 21 are canceled, without prejudice, rendering the rejections of those claims moot.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "by identifying a small waveform part of the waveform of the impedance through identifying a irregular part that appears in a waveform waveform-converted so that the amplitude size is reversed." In support of this amendment, reference is made to the specification, page 25, line 28 to page 26, line 2, which states "*For example, as shown in FIG. 10, by waveform-converting the detected voltage waveform S so that the amplitude sizes are reversed as in a voltage waveform Sb, the waveform parts s1b and s2b that appear irregularly can be*

identified without being overlooked. Also, when detecting the number of contact revolutions, a waveform part S3b, which is the first momentary contact position, would be identified without being overlooked."

Yamane et al. does not disclose or suggest "a waveform-converted so that the amplitude size is reversed", or that waveform-converting is helpful to identify the irregular parts. Since Yamane et al. does not disclose each and every element of claim 1, as amended, it cannot anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8-10 also distinguish over Yamane et al. by virtue of their dependence from claim 1. Hence, applicant submits that claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-10 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 11, 15, 22-27 and 59 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Yamane et al. Claims 15 and 22-27 are canceled, without prejudice. Claim 59 is amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 60, as discussed above. Claim 11 depends from claim 1, and is allowable for the same reasons set forth for claim 1.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 25, 2005

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